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New reports of rust fungi from Malakand, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

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Abstract — *Puccinia microspora* and *P. nakanishikii* were collected from Malakand district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and are new records for Pakistan.

Key words — Hazar Nao, Swat, *Uredinales*

Introduction

The tribal region, Malakand is located at 34°35¢N 71°57¢E. It is bounded by Dir and Swat, by Buner, Mardan, and Charsadda districts, and by Mohmand and Bajaur Agencies (Chaghtai & Ghawas 1976). Malakand extends from the rugged and partly glaciated mountain ranges of the Hindukush down to northern edge of the Peshawar basin. Vegetation of the district is mostly sub-tropical, typified as Coniferous Sub-tropical Pine Forest of Pakistan (Sheikh 1993). The dominant forest trees are *Pinus roxburghii* Sarg. mixed with *Quercus oblongata* D. Don [= *Q. incana* Roxb.] and *Olea ferruginea* Royle, and *Acacia modesta* Wall. and *Dodonaea viscosa* Jacq. are found at the lower elevations (Barkatullah & Ibrar 2011).

During the exploration of *Uredinales* of Malakand, Pakistan, rust infected plants were collected from different localities and examined macro-microscopically. Among the specimens, *Puccinia microspora* and *P. nakanishikii* were found as new records for Pakistan. Previously about 174 species of rust fungi have been reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Afshan & Khalid 2008, 2009; Afshan et al. 2008a,b,c,d, 2010; Ishaq et al. 2013; Fiaz et al. 2015), but Malakand district is totally unexplored uredinologically. So this is a first attempt to study and explore this floristically rich area with respect to rust fungi.

Materials & methods

Freehand sections & scrape mounts of infected plant materials were made in lactic acid. The plants were photographed and infected portions were observed under a stereomicroscope. Twenty spores representing each spore state were examined under a Nikon YS 100 microscope, and paraphyses and spore were measured using a Zeiss eyepiece screw micrometer. Sections, paraphyses and spores were microphotographed by Digiporo-Labomed. Spores and paraphyses were drawn with the aid of a camera lucida (Ernst Leitz Wetzlar Germany). Specimens are conserved in the Herbarium, Hazara University, Dhodial, Pakistan (HUP).

New records

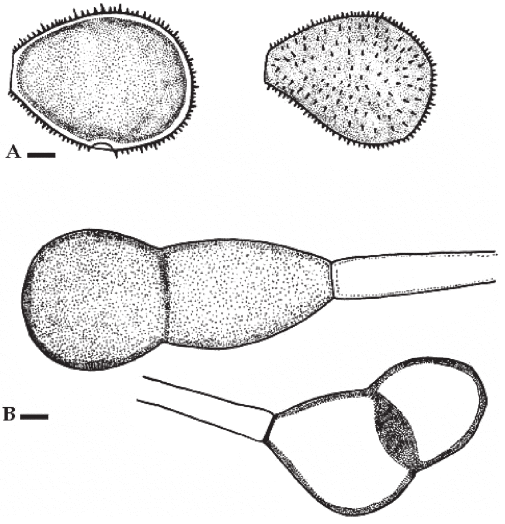

Plate 1: *Puccinia microspora* (HUP SHR-25):
A. Urediniospores. B. Teliospores. Scale bars = 10 µm.

Puccinia microspora Dietel, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 37: 101 (1905) Plate 1

Spermogonia and aecia not found. Sori frequent on the abaxial surface. Uredinia pale brown to cinnamon brown. Urediniospores 22.5–26 × 17–20 µm, oval to obovoid, cinnamon brown, echinulate, 3–4 equatorial germ pores, wall thickness 1.7–2.3 µm. Telia dark brown to blackish brown. Teliospores 33–39 × 20.5–25 µm, smooth, chestnut brown, wall thickness 2–3 µm, pale brown; pedicels 22–26 µm, thin walled, persistent.

Material examined: **PAKISTAN**, **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, District Malakand, Qaldara, at 510 m a.s.l., on *Imperata cylindrica* (L.) P. Beauv. (*Poaceae*), stages II + III, April, 2014, S. Hussain SHR-208. (HUP SHR-25).

Comments: *Puccinia microspora* is a new record for Pakistan. This fungus previously been reported from Asia, North America, and South America (Cummins 1971, Bagyanarayana & Ravinder 1988).

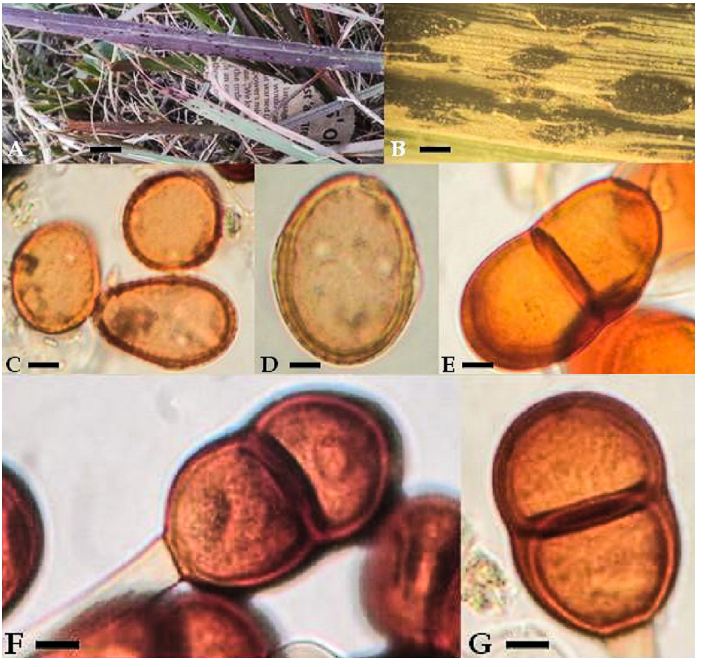

Plate 2a–g: *Puccinia nakanishikii* (HUP SHR-26): A. Host plant. B. Uredinial and telial sori under stereomicroscope. C, D. Urediniospores. E–G. Teliospores. Scale bars: A, B = 10 mm; C, D = 10 µm; E–G = 12 µm.

Puccinia nakanishikii Dietel, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 34: 585 (1905) Plate 2

Spermogonia and aecia unknown. Uredinial and telial sori amphigenous. Uredinia light brown to cinnamon-brown, rounded to globose. Urediniospores 25–30 × 18–24 µm, globose to ellipsoid, echinulate, light brown to chestnut brown, 4–5 equatorial germ pores, wall thickness 1–2.5 µm. Telia sub-epidermal but early exposed, dark brown to blackish, elongated, 0.2–0.5 mm. Teliospores 32–38 × 20–26 µm, chestnut brown to dark brown, ellipsoidal, smooth with little granular contents, wall thickness at sides 2.3–3.5 µm, and 4–6 µm apically. Pedicel usually persistent, light brown, thick walled, 94–111 × 5–7 µm.

Material examined: **PAKISTAN**, **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa**, District Malakand, Jaban, at 490 m a.s.l., on *Sorghum halepense* (L.) Pers. (*Poaceae*), stages II + III, Nov. 2010, S. Hussain SHR-209. (HUP SHR-26).

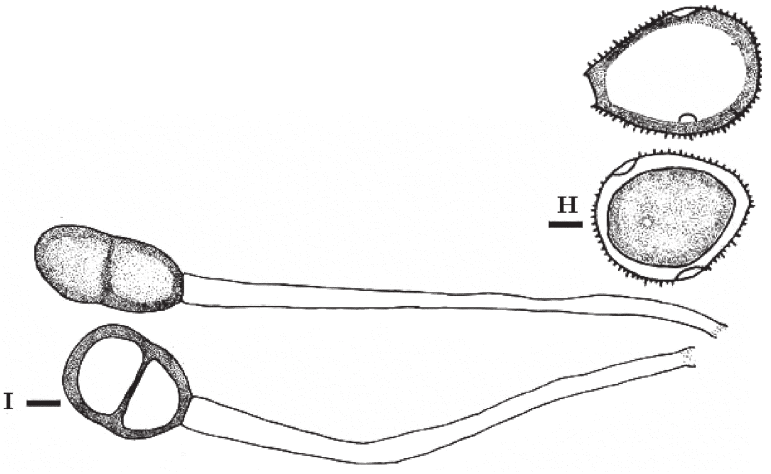

Plate 2h–i: *Puccinia nakanishikii* (HUP SHR-26):
H. Urediniospores. I. Teliospores. Scale bars = 10 μm.

Comments: *Puccinia nakanishikii* is a new record for Pakistan. It has previously been reported from Africa and Asia on the grass genera *Andropogon*, *Bothriochloa*, *Capillipedium*, *Cymbopogon*, and *Sorghum* (Cummins 1971).

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